

THE METHODIST BOOK CONCERN.

Annual Conference. Report of the Committee—Adjournment Till April. The Methodist Book Committee met yesterday at half-past three o'clock endeavoring to finish up the business. Several of the members were anxious to go to their homes and churches before the Sabbath, and hence the hurry. The sub-committee on Annual Report presented their report, which, with one or two slight verbal amendments, was adopted. The report starts out with a declaration to the Annual Conference that the committee are obliged to admit that the publishing interests of the denomination, so far as they relate to the Book Concern of New York, during the last quadrennium have been surrounded by

UNPRECEDENTED DIFFICULTIES, and at times the best friends have somewhat anxiously inquired whether the clouds of obliquity and suspicion would ever be dispersed.

The committee have decided opinions as to where the responsibility for all this trouble rests, but are not called upon to express any further judgment until their report to the General Conference. But notwithstanding all these grave troubles, extending through nearly the whole quadrennium, some success has been achieved. The success of the interest committed to their oversight.

The report then recites the condition and status of the several publishing concerns, papers, reviews, &c., all of which are declared to have been in a good and healthy condition and well edited and managed. The Sabbath school literature also connected with the Book Concern has been increased in numbers and efficiency and are well received. The periodicals in this department have also been increased in circulation and in the character of the literature itself.

The loss to the church by the Chicago fire, the committee says, will probably reach \$100,000, but the recuperative power of Methodism in that region will probably be sufficient to make the church stand up and at no distant day they hope to recover from the effects of that terrible disaster. The committee also have a report to make on the more important report to present to the Annual Conference, because the accounts appointed last summer has not yet made his report.

Upon the adoption of this report some debate was had in regard to the

OPINIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY. Some were inclined to hint at this part, but others favored making the language stronger. It was finally adopted as presented by the sub-committee.

An sub-committee on the Quarterly Report, consisting of Drs. Cyrus Brooks (Chairman), J. S. Bingham and F. A. Blakes, was appointed to review the report of the Quarterly Report, and to prepare the same for the General Conference.

A discussion arose on the selection of this committee. The minority felt that they should have a representative thereof. This discussion was continued preposterous in a report which is to be presented to the whole church as the final report of the Book Concern of New York.

Preparations for the several publications, fixing the salaries of the bishops, editors and agents, the Committee adjourned till April 26, when the accounts report will be ready.

PACIFIC MAIL INVESTIGATION.

The Charges Against the Officers of the Company—The Complaining Stockholder Fails to Appear. The Legislative Committee appointed to investigate the charges preferred against the President and directors of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company assembled yesterday morning at the St. Nicholas Hotel. The complainant is a Mr. Newton Layman, a stockholder, who asserted that the officers of the company had conspired to defraud private speculation. With commendable amount of patience the committee awaited the appearance of the stockholder for some time, but as he did not appear, the committee decided upon the company's office was decided upon.

Shortly after one o'clock the committee met at the office of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, where the investigation was formally resumed. Mr. Alberger, the chairman, desired to give an emphatic contradiction to the statement which appeared in a morning paper to the effect that the committee had been smoking and drinking rum on the day preceding.

Mr. G. B. Bellows, Vice President of the company, testified that he came into office in November; he found the financial statement now produced correct; all assets were under the direction; in December, on December 1, the company had \$200,000 on hand, on the 5th \$400,000, on the 15th \$200,000, on the 20th \$100,000, on the 25th \$200,000, on the 30th \$100,000, on the 31st \$200,000, on the 1st of January \$100,000, on the 2nd \$200,000, on the 3rd \$100,000, on the 4th \$200,000, on the 5th \$100,000, on the 6th \$200,000, on the 7th \$100,000, on the 8th \$200,000, on the 9th \$100,000, on the 10th \$200,000, on the 11th \$100,000, on the 12th \$200,000, on the 13th \$100,000, on the 14th \$200,000, on the 15th \$100,000, on the 16th \$200,000, on the 17th \$100,000, on the 18th \$200,000, on the 19th \$100,000, on the 20th \$200,000, on the 21st \$100,000, on the 22nd \$200,000, on the 23rd \$100,000, on the 24th \$200,000, on the 25th \$100,000, on the 26th \$200,000, on the 27th 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